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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05415 131920Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 ICAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /090 W
----------122762 131931Z /41
O R 131905Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2525
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5415

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE TO PROPOSED
SYG STATEMENT

REF: (A) PRETORIA 5414, (B) STATE 231280

1. WE FIND THE SAG'S RESPONSE TO WALHEIM'S REPORT (PRETORIA 5380) MODERATELY WORDED AND NON-POLEMICAL. IT APPEARS TO BE A SERIOUS, LAST-MINUTE EFFORT BY THE SAG TO WIN ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION. ALTHOUGH THE MESSAGE ENDS ON A PESSIMISTIC NOTE, ITS CAREFUL WORDING SEEMS TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT A FEW ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT TO WIN FINAL SAG APPROVAL.
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2. THE MESSAGE INDICATES THAT THE SAG MAY CONTINUE TO REJECT THE IDEA OF SIGNING DUPLICATE CEASEFIRE DOCUMENTS. THE RESPONSE, IN FACT, COULD BE TAKEN AS THE SAG'S OWN FORMAL DELCARATION OF ITS ACCEPTANCE OF A CEASEFIRE. THE TEXT INCORPORATES THE KEY PHRASE CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSED DUPLICATE DOCUMENT PLEDGING CESSATION OF

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"ALL WAR-LIKE ACTS AND OPERATIONS."

3. THE MESSAGE APPEARS TO COMPLAIN ONLY FOR THE RECORD ABOUT SWAPO'S ALLEGED CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE SYG'S PLAN. LIKEWISE, THE SAG APPEARS BASICALLY ACQUIESCENT ON THE ISSUE OF THE UN CIVILIAN POLICE CONTINGENT.

4. THE RESPONSE IS MORE AMBIVALENT ON THE TIMETABLE ISSUE, DESCRIBING IT AS "DISAPPOINTING" BUT "VITALLY IMPORTANT." INTERESTINGLY, IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE, THE SAG STRESSES THE "WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA" AS THE DETERMINING CONSIDERATION. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THIS MAY BE A PIK BOTHA PLOY TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR BACKING DOWN ON THE DECEMBER 31 DATE WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THE SAG CANNOT JUSTIFY ITS STAND ON THIS ISSUE WITH ONLY SUPPORT FROM THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE.

5. THE MESSAGE, AS EXPECTED, TAKES THE TOUGHEST LINE ON THE SIZE OF THE UN MILITARY FORCE. THE MESSAGE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY REJECT THE FIGURE OF 75000 AS A MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED NUMBER BUT ASSERTS THAT "IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE SAG TO AGREE TO A MILITARY COMPONENT WHICH IN FACT WOULD VIRTUALLY AMOUNT TO AN OPERATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE OR EVEN AN OCCUPATION FORCE." THIS LANGUAGE SUGGESTS THAT FURTHER ASSURANCES FROM THE SYG THAT THE UNTAG WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE EITHER A CONFIDENTIAL

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PEACEKEEPING OR OCCUPATION FORCE COULD BE HELPFUL. IN ADDITION, THE MESSAGE FOCUSES ON THE QUESTION OF FUTURE CONSULTATION WITH THE AG ON THE ACTUAL SIZE OF THE UN FORCE. (PRESUMABLY, THEY ARE SATISFIED THAT THEY WILL BE CONULTED ON COMPOSITION.) A REASSURANCE THAT ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE AG, WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS MIGHT MEET PIK BOTHA'S NEEDS ON THIS QUESTION.

6. THE SAG MAY NOT APPRECIATE THAT IN REALITY IT WILL BE IN CONTINUING CONSULTATION WITH THE UN THROUGHT THE UNSR-AG RELATIONSHIP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN WHEREAS A FORMAL COMMITMENT TO CONSULTATION ON THE ACTUAL SIZE OF UN FORCES DEPLOYED WOULD HAVE TO INVOLVE ALL PARTIES AND THIS COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS AND DISPUTES. PERHAPS WE MIGHT CALL THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

7. WHEN THE PRETORIA FIVE MET TODAY TO DISCUSS AND COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED MESSAGE AND AIDE MEMOIRE TO THE SAG (REF A), WE ASSUMED THAT THE REQUEST FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SAG POSITION (REF B) HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE

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CONTACT GROUP DRAFTS FROM NEW YORK. ALTHOUGH WE
ACCORDINGLY PREPARED NO JOINT ASSESSMENT, WE AGREED
THAT THE SAG MESSAGE WAS PROBABLY SENT ON CABINET
INSTRUCTIONS, AND THAT THE ISSUE WAS STILL OPEN FOR
FURTHER DISCUSSION AND DECISION IN THE CABINET. THERE
WAS NO COMMON ASSESSMENT ON WHICH WAY THE CABINET WAS
LIKELY TO GO, BUT WE ALL FELT THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO
MOVE AHEAD WITH A RESPONSE ALONG THE LINES OF THE CONTACT
GROUP DRAFT. EVEN IF THE AIDE MEMOIRE FAILS TO SATISFY
THE SAG, MY OWN FEELING IS THAT, ON BALANCE, THE SAG
WILL KEEP THE DOOR OPEN RATHER THAN END THE PROCESS WITH
AN OUTRIGHT DECISION TO REJECT EVERYTHING WE HAVE ACHIEVED
AT THIS STAGE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Reference: 78 PRETORIA 5414, 78 STATE 231280
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TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66025851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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